

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 23-31, and 33-61 are pending.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 40-61 are allowed and that claims 12, 14, 23-26, 33, and 34 are deemed allowable.

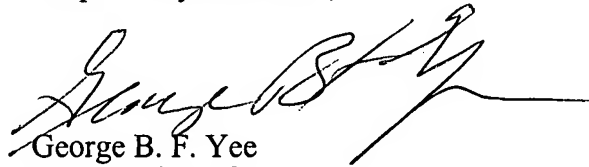
Claims 1-11, 13, 15-22, 27-32, and 35-40, however, were rejected.

Without conceding the merits of the claim rejections, Applicant has amended the claims to pursue the allowed and allowable claims in order to move forward with prosecution of the pending application. Applicant acknowledges its right to pursue the rejected claims in a continuing application during pendency of the instant application.

Accordingly, claims 12, 14, 23, and 33 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 8, 11, 13, 17-22, 32, and 62-64 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Dependent claims have been amended accordingly.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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